

Serial No. 09/723,016
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Examiner: Judson Jones
Group Art Unit: 2834

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice and add new claims 19-72. The proposed new claims are attached hereto as Exhibit E.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application as examined. By the present amendments, the originally filed claims are canceled without prejudice, and new claims are submitted for further examination and reconsideration. The subject matter of some of the originally filed claims is deleted entirely and of others is carried forward into the new claims. More specifically, originally filed claim 1 has been deleted in its entirety and has no equivalent in the new claims. The subject matter of originally filed dependent claims 2-7 appears in new claims 32, 33, 29, 31, 34 and 35, respectively. Originally filed claims 8 and 9 are deleted in their entirety. The subject matter of originally filed claims 10 and 11 appears in new claim 36. The subject matter of originally filed claim 13 appears in new claims 40 and 71.

The drawings are amended to correct references and add numerals to components identified in the specification. Further, the specification is amended to correct some typographical and grammatical errors, clarify some aspects of the operation of the described embodiments, and conform the summary of the invention to the amended claims. No new matter is presented by the amendments, full support therefore being found inherently and in the originally filed application. Further examination and consideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Smith*. Further, claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Shiraki et al.* Moreover, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Clifford et al.* In light of the foregoing amendments canceling claims 1-18, all of the rejections are moot and withdrawal is requested.